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ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY

Tuesday, January 2, 2001
Vol. 117 No. 38
\$1 including GST



Murray Cowen brought a team of horses to Head Lake Park on New Years Day to help people celebrate the dawn of the official new millennium. The festivities, hosted by the municipality of Dysart et al, including games and dog sled rides for kids, free hotdogs and hot chocolate and fireworks at dusk. For more photos see pages 12 and 13.

Firearms owners rush to meet deadline for new licences, though many decide to get rid of guns

ERIK MARTENSSON

Staff Reporter

As the last few seconds of the year 2000 ticked away, so did the window of opportunity for thousands of gun owners who still have not complied with the government's new gun legislation.

As of January 1, 2001 all firearms owners in Canada must have a personal firearms licence. Without a licence firearm owners cannot possess a firearm, acquire a firearm, borrow a firearm, buy ammunition or obtain an authorization to transport a firearm legally.

"In terms of licensing we've got 1.8 million of a rough estimate of 2.2 million Canadian firearms owners in compliance now," says David Austin, spokesperson for the Canadian Firearms Centre (CFC), the government department handling the licensing program.

Mark Holmes, communications specialist with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), calls the govern-

ment's numbers "exaggerated".

OFAH says the government's estimates of 2.2 million gun owners is low and that groups representing firearm owners believe there are four to seven million men and women who own guns in Canada.

OFAH strongly opposes the new legislation and says it is creating instant criminals out of gun owners who failed to fill out some paperwork. Holmes says there are many firearm owners in Canada who are simply ignoring the legislation.

"The government will be dealing with significant numbers of people who will not be complying. According to the government's own heavily manipulated figures there's about half a million who aren't complying. It runs the gamut of everything from people who still aren't aware of it and what their obligations are to people who are so opposed to it so they just refuse to do it."

More than five years have passed since Parliament passed legislation forcing every gun owner to get a licence by

See OFAH page 6

Holiday week one of the busiest ever across the Highlands

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

With lots of snow, lots of sunshine and festivities landing on the tail end of weekends, it was one of the best - and busiest - holiday seasons in the Highlands.

While resorts and cottagers were filled with outdoor enthusiasts, there may still be a lot of tourists out there who spent their New Year's resolving to make travel plans more in advance.

In the days before the New Year's Eve weekend, the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce office in Minden was kept busy trying to find accommodation for people who had suddenly decided to ring in the new year in the Highlands.

Most wanted to rent a cottage or stay in a cottage resort, says tourism counsellor Sarah Marsh, who also noted that many callers were from the United States.

"They're hearing we have so much snow and say 'wow, we should go there,'" she said on Thursday.

Americans tended to want to come up in larger groups, stay at a cottage and rent snowmobiles.

By Thursday, many of the cottage resorts were already full, easing owners' worries at the beginning of the season that there weren't many bookings. Resorts were also reporting a good holiday season as guests delighted in all the outdoor activities which are available.

This last-minute holiday planning is a repeat of the summer, says Chamber office manager Karen Eager. "When the opportunity arises (to get away for the weekend), they take it," she says, but not as many people make long-term plans.

That means that for the Chamber staff, Christmas is a particularly busy season.

"It's all about snowmobiling," Marsh says, referring also to the number of calls the Chamber fielded about snow condi-

See Perfect page 14



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Learning Centre full of heartwarming stories

It was heartwarming to read the end-of-year newsletter from the Haliburton Highlands Learning Centre. Not only were 37 students helped with their literacy skills by a dedicated group of volunteers, but there were also several examples of generosity. Donations of money and supplies helped the volunteers provide the programming, pay for one student's much needed dental work, provide toys for the children of students at Christmas and improve learning opportunities. Future programming includes learning through art and sewing lessons. It's a wonderful program that deserves to be supported. If you'd like to get involved, call co-ordinator Jane Selbie at 457-3430.

People who want to follow Ryan Sisson and Adam Bathe's journey to Antarctica should check out the excellent website about their adventure at www.studentsonice.sympatico.ca. It has daily updates on the 55 high school students from across Canada who arrived by boat in Antarctica on New Year's Eve so they could celebrate the dawn of the new (official) millennium with the tuxedoed penguins.

Talk about a black tie affair...

If you're not the type to enjoy all this snow and would rather spend the winter dreaming about summer, you might want to warm your soul with a trip to the Toronto International Boat Show from January 13 to 21 at Exhibition Place. For details about what to expect, visit www.torontoboatshow.com or call 416-203-3934.

With this solid base of snow, this year's SLED poker run and raffle on February 10 promises to provide more

here, there & everywhere

news and events worth noting

fun for riders, who last year were faced with no snow. The event, which is sponsored by Snap-On and has a 2001 Ski Doo MXZ 500 as its grand prize for the poker run, stands for Snowmobilers Link to End Diabetes. Registration, which is \$30 per rider, starts at 8 a.m. at Rotary Park in Haliburton. For details call 1-800-BANTING ext 601, email sled2001@hotmail.com or visit www.sled.org.

Claire Sylvan is once again offering a Wen Do women's self defense course to any girl or woman older than 10. The course helps participants learn awareness and skills to defend themselves in a variety of situa-

tions. The program runs February 24 and March 3 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. It costs \$55 for the entire course. For details call 457-5345, ext. 312.

Researching family trees is a popular pastime. The Kawartha Ancestral Research Association can help people search local records which it has on file. (Although it focuses on Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Haliburton, most of its records seem to come from the southern part of this region.) It has a vital statistics records, some church records, newspaper sources, indexes and directories, as well as the First Land Holders Index, which lists all the first owners of property purchased from the crown. Its office at 247 Hunter Street in Peterborough (K9J 6Y8) is open Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons from 1 to 5 p.m. Call 705-743-7668 for more information.



Spot THE ECHO contest top prize winner...

Haliburton resident James Jowett won the top prize in The Echo's pre-Christmas Spot the Echo contest. Here The Echo's Linda Emerson presents him with a \$250 gift certificate to be spent at the participating retailer of his choice. The other winners were Liz Verhovany, \$150, and Ethel Galvin, \$100.

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Loralea Inn cabin destroyed by fire on New Year's Eve day

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

It wasn't the New Year's guests of the Lorelea Inn had anticipated after a fire destroyed one cabin and shut off water to the others early on the last day of 2000.

"It was awful, awful," says owner Lorraine Dougherty. "Everyone kept telling me 'tomorrow's a new day and tomorrow's a new year.'"

The cottage resort on Hwy 35 at Halls Lake was full of holidaying guests who had planned to spend the evening at a special dinner and "do" at the main lodge.

Unfortunately, the main water junction was under the cabin which burned, cutting off water to all the other cabins. With no water, the guests were not able to stay in the cabins. The Doughertys spent a frantic day trying to find alternative accommodations.

The fire was apparently caused by a heater kept in a crawl space underneath the cabin's bathroom.

The guests had disconnected the cabin's fire alarm; Dougherty says burnt toast can

set off the alarm and as a result, people take out the batteries and leave them out.

When the cabin started to fill with smoke, "(the guests) sat there for an hour thinking the smoke was from the fireplace."

At six in the morning the guests realized the problem was more serious and came knocking on the Doughertys' door.

Stanhope's fire department responded and kept the fire contained to the one cabin, which sustained serious structural damage and will have to be torn down.

"The firemen were just great," Dougherty says. She'll be contacting them again soon to ask about where she can buy fire alarms that can't be disconnected.

Meanwhile, Dysart's fire department responded to a sauna fire on Kennisis Lake on the afternoon of December 30.

The owner had stoked the sauna's wood stove and left. "When he saw it next, it was burning," says Fire Chief Miles Maughan.

The cost of replacing the sauna is expected to be \$20,000 because part of the building was used as a shed.

Sled dogs luckily uninjured in Boxing Day accident

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

A team of sled dogs had a wild ride of their own when their travelling kennel became detached from its truck and landed door side down in a Boxing Day accident on North Kashagawigamog Lake Road.

The dogs and their owners, Hank and Tanya McCready of Wifitdance Dogsled Tours, were on their way to Wigamog to take guests on rides when their truck failed to negotiate a sharp corner.

As the truck veered into the ditch, the kennel holding approximately 20 dogs came off the back of the truck just after nine in the morning, Dysart Fire Chief Miles Maughan says.

Dysart's fire department responded to help rescue the dogs, who were trapped inside the kennel.

"They were excited, quite excited, especially because there was no light getting into the ones on the bottom," Maughan says.

Using a fire truck to right the kennel, some of the dogs were

taken out and put in the back of a truck.

Haliburton veterinarian Laurie Brown was called to the scene. Luckily, none of the dogs were injured.

Tanya McCready was not as lucky. She broke an arm in the accident.

A few days after the mishap, she said the dogs were fine and Wifitdance was back in full swing.

"Everyone was so absolutely wonderful," she says of the response to the accident.

The next afternoon the fire department was called to an accident shortly after four.

Two cars cresting the Pine Street hill near Victoria Street in Haliburton collided and the driver of one of the cars, Helen Leighton, was injured.

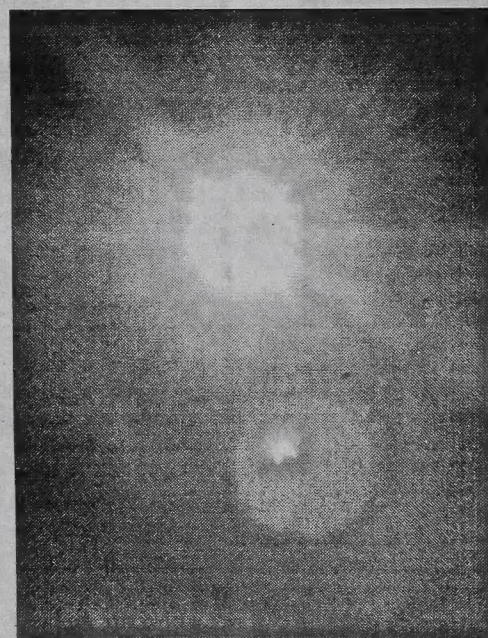
Since the firefighters were unable to open her door to assist her, they had to use their extrication equipment.

She was transported by ambulance to Haliburton Hospital where she was kept overnight and is recuperating from whiplash at home in Haliburton.

"I'm coming along," she said Friday. "It was scary but it could have been a lot worse."



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO



A Christmas gift from the heavens

It was a spectacularly beautiful Christmas day when the moon's orbit passed in front of the sun causing a partial eclipse. While the sun was especially bright, making it impossible to look at the eclipse directly, by looking at the lens flare in these digital photos you can see the moon passing in front of the sun. It's just above the fence in the photo above, and the second, smaller source of light in the photo at left.

Review of state of emergency leads to plan update

by GARY KING
County CAO

The county's Emergency Services Committee held a debriefing session relating to the declaration of the State of Emergency on Tuesday, December 12, 2000 as a result of a major winter snowstorm.

The committee was presented with a report summarizing the events leading up to the State of

Emergency by Emergency Services Manager Bob English as well as a chronology of activities.

Other participants as well included OPP Staff Sergeant Bob Walli, county fire coordinator Miles Maughan and CAO Gary King.

The committee was pleased with the communications and co-ordinations which occurred between the police, ambulance,

fire and road services.

It identified the need to update the County Emergency Plan via a vis name changes and contact telephone numbers for several individuals, and requested staff to ensure that notification procedures are enhanced.

An updated version of the county's emergency plan is to be reviewed by the committee early in the New Year.

Retailers' Christmas review

Early snow makes season come to life for merchants

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

"It's all about snow."

As the weather goes, so too goes winter business in the Highlands, says Clay Glecoff, who with his family owns V & S

department store in Haliburton.

The early arrival of snow in November certainly set the tone for the holiday retail season. V & S quickly ran out of boots for sale and has to place three additional orders to keep up with demand.

Demand for winter outerwear means

shoppers weren't getting the pre-Christmas sales they enjoyed last year, but Glecoff says that hasn't stopped them for purchasing everything they need to enjoy outdoor opportunities at the regular price.

Their busiest day of the year was Saturday the 23rd. "It was even bigger than Midnight Madness," he says.

Laurie Bonfield at Country Pickin's also waited for Boxing Day for any sales.

"People started shopping early and so it was steady all the way through," she says. The lack of sales didn't deter shoppers at all. "People were buying what they wanted. They seemed easy going."

Karen Perrott of Outdoors Plus says her pre-Christmas sale was more of a way to thank all the local shoppers. "All year round people are supporting you and I like to give them a break."

But what about those last-minute shoppers?

Most retailers report a pretty quiet Christmas Eve day.

"Sunday (the 24th) was really quiet,"

says Ruth DeJong of Cranberry Cottage. "The Saturday was like Christmas Eve day. On Sunday people were just nabbing what they had missed."

It's local customers who fill her store before Christmas, and cottagers and tourists who like to drop by during the holiday week before New Year's, she says. "It's not crazy but it's nice and steady and we have time to chat."

Bonfield said that her Christmas Eve shoppers tended to be – wait for the surprise – men.

"Men are at the end, right up to Sunday at four," she laughs. "If we had stayed open on Christmas we'd probably have a few, too."

Some people were surprised most local stores were closed on the real Boxing Day but retailers were enjoying the break, too.

Shoppers came in waves during the week because with so much snow and good weather, there was lots to do outside, Bonfield says. "When there's good snow, people are out playing in it."

Trend shows that most calls for fire department's help aren't for fires

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

Twice over the holiday week the Dysart Fire Department responded to emergency calls and both incidents are indicative of a growing trend across the county: most calls to fire departments are not for fires.

Dysart Fire Chief Miles Maughan says that of the 103 calls to the department in 2000, about 20 percent were because of fires.

Another 20 percent were to assist with motor vehicle accidents and the rest were an assortment of non-fire calls.

He says that some departments, such as Stanhope, spend the majority of their time responding to first response and accident calls because the ambulance bases are farther away.

Stanhope's Fire Chief John Hogg says that at year end, close to 50 percent of the department's calls were for first response.

"Total calls are down but first response calls stayed the same so the percentage is up," he says, attributing the reduction of calls in part to the moist spring which resulted in fewer brush fires. There were also fewer motor vehicle accidents to respond to.

But part of the reason there's a declining percentage of fire calls overall is that there are fewer fires.

Public education campaigns and changes in fire insurance procedures have resulted in fewer fires, Maughan says.

"People are a lot more aware (of how to prevent fires)," he says.

For example, in 1995, almost half of the fire calls were for chimney fires. This past fall and winter, there's only been one chimney fire, "which is great."

He says insurance companies are now demanding regular chimney and woodstove inspections and are stressing that cleaning out your chimney once a year is not enough.



Shelley Schell and her daughter Quinn check out the Boxing Day sales at Country Pickin's in Haliburton.

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Christmas Eve in Essonville

On Christmas Eve, the Essonville Church opened its doors for a special night of singing and scripture. It's one of only two occasions the church is open in the year. With no electricity, coal oil lamps and candles created a warm glow, accented by the candles which lit the path to the church, above. Local children sang several carols, above left, before the adults joined in. Ken Noble, whose family has long gone to the church, rang the bell welcoming the crowd which packed the church. It's a tradition also enjoyed by his grandfather.

Photos by Martha Perkins



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OFAH says gun owners should buy licence first, then protest

from page 1

December 31 and register their guns by January 1, 2003. But counting on a last-minute rush, the CFC extended its hours leading up to the deadline. Austin says the CFC is using three processing centers to handle the large volume of licence applications and have established what they call a temporary licence.

"A firearm owner who is eligible will get a temporary licence and that will allow them to purchase ammunition and to show that they are in compliance with the law. And they're good up to six months or until you get your firearms licence," says Austin.

As well, in late December the Justice Department introduced a six-month grace period that protects gun owners from legal trouble if they applied for their licence by the deadline.

Despite its opposition to the legislation, Holmes says OFAH is recommending that its members do go through the licensing process.

"As much as we abhor the law, it is the law. It is a personal choice for people whether they comply or not and we do not counsel people to break the law. We say know the laws, comply, and join us in protesting."

While not a majority, Holmes says there are a significant amount of people simply giving up on owning firearms because of the legislation.

"This legislation is so onerous that some people definitely are getting rid of their guns. People are closing up businesses, they just can't deal with it any more or won't deal with it."

Austin says the CFC has no definitive way of knowing how many people are abandoning gun ownership.

"We know it's happening we just don't know how often it's happening. What we hear anecdotally from those in the industry at gun shops and et cetera is that many people are coming in to sell their firearms either on consignment or to the gun shop. There are many people who have had the .22, have had it in the basement since they were a teenager, haven't pulled it out

See **Older** page 6



MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

Walter Griffin of Outdoors Plus helps a gun owner fill out the required paperwork for the new licence.

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Older gun owners don't want to bother with paperwork so they're getting rid of their guns

from page 6

probably for decades and now have to make a decision. Are they going to want to use it again? Do they want to go and license themselves? Or they say, 'well, no, I'm going to pass it on to somebody with a licence, I'm going to sell it to a dealer, or I'm going to deactivate it'. So those are the decisions that people have to make."

Gun owners can also give their weapons to the police if they don't want them anymore.

"We are getting a number in," says Constable Laura Ostler of the Haliburton Highlands OPP detachment. "And if people do want to bring guns in we are asking that they phone first just to make sure that there is somebody here to receive the gun or ammunition."

Outdoors Plus in Haliburton says some people are giving up on owning firearms and are deactivating, selling or giving them away. Ten people have given their guns to the retail outlet to sell rather than go through with the paperwork.

"The older people don't want to do the paperwork," says Walter Griffin. "The younger people, they're used to doing paperwork, they're used to working on a computer, it's not a problem to them. It's probably the 45 and over crowd that it's affecting the most because they don't like doing paperwork."

Griffin believes there is a fair amount of non-compliance with the legislation

even though the two licensing clinics held at the store this past fall were lined up out the door.

As for business, Griffin says the new legislation hasn't had a large impact as of yet.

"I don't know that it's really affecting business in the ammunition or anything like that. I can tell you what the public thinks about it though. The public sentiment is that most people are not in favour of it and they don't know how it's going to make the country a safer place. Probably 95 per cent of the illegal guns are in the Toronto area and those people aren't going to register those guns anyway."

The government says statistics and examples show that the firearms program is already paying dividends in terms of public safety by keeping firearms out of the hands of people who shouldn't have them. More than 2,000 licences have been revoked or refused since December 1, 1998 by public safety authorities.

Holmes says one problem with the new legislation is that it is unclear as to how the police will deal with it.

"I think there will be a great deal of inconsistency on that depending on where you are. Certain police forces have indicated they will enforce it to the letter of the law. Others say they are going to be quite lenient."

Ostler says the Haliburton OPP will be enforcing the legislation.

"There hasn't been any specific directive but basically the legislation will be in place so if people are found in viola-

tion of that legislation then it will be enforced."

Ostler says rumours that police forces will be knocking on doors looking for unlicensed firearm owners are simply not true.

"That's not the directive. We do not have a magic list and will not be searching people's homes for illegal weapons. Basically it will be the same as the unsafe storage issue; if while you are investigating a situation or occurrence and you come across an incident where they're in violation then it will be dealt with according to the individual situation."

If found in possession of a firearm without a licence a person can be charged with either a summary conviction or an indictable offence depending on the circumstances. Penalties on a summary conviction range from fines up to \$2,000 to six months in jail. More serious violations could entail jail terms up to five years.

Unfortunately, those who left getting their licence to the last minute may not have much luck. Many of the outlets who can issue the licence forms have run out and they're not able to get through on the toll-free line to order more because of the volume of calls

In order to contact the Canadian Firearms Centre and apply for a license, firearm owners can call 1-800-731-4000 or visit <http://www.canadianfirearms.com> or www.cfc.qc.ca on the Internet. Application forms are also available at the Post Office.

"Grace period" extended to those whose licences are still being processed

A grace period until June 30, 2001 has been announced for firearms licence applicants who have not yet received their licence, but who applied on or before December 31, 2000.

Given the volume of applications before the December 31 deadline, the minister of Justice has announced a grace period until June 30, 2001 for all firearm owners who submitted their licence on or before December 31, 2000, but who have not yet received either a licence or a temporary licence.

The grace period protects persons from prosecution or conviction for the unauthorized possession offences in the following circumstances:

1. The person lawfully possessed their firearms on December 1, 1998, when the Firearms Act came into force.

2. The person applied for a licence on or before December 31, 2000.

The grace period will last until the earliest of:

1. The date the person is issued a licence;
2. The date a person is deemed to have received notice that they have been refused a licence; or
3. June 30, 2001.

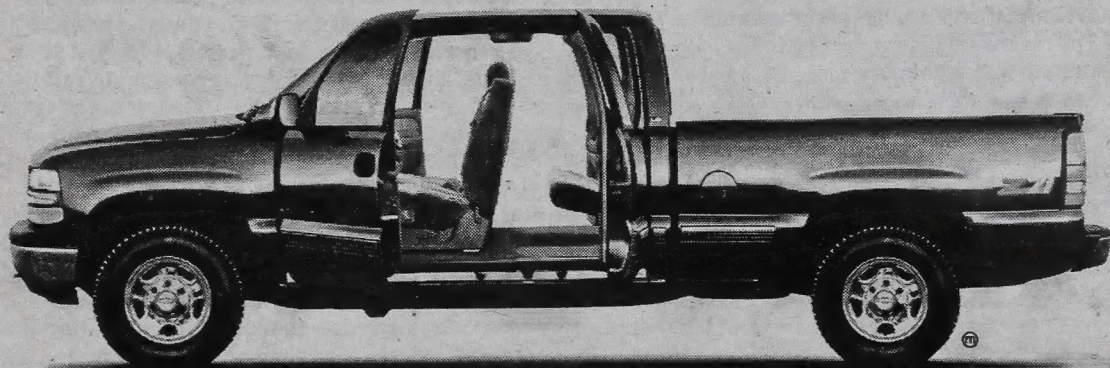
It should be noted that a person cannot purchase ammunition or borrow firearms unless they are the holder of a valid licence, temporary licence, or Firearms Acquisition Certificate (FAC).



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A true gift of the season

It was Christmas Eve 2000. The snow was falling quietly on Christ Church, that quaint place of worship which has long provided a haven of forested serenity on the Essonville Line. The single bell tolled out its welcome, as evocative a sound as the footsteps in the snow as worshippers made their way up the candle-lit path towards the historic wooden building.

Inside, the church was aglow in the soft light created by the burning coal oil lamps and candles. A more meaningful heat was provided by the woodstove in the corner, soon to be complemented by the warmth generated by all the people tightly packing themselves into the straight-back pews.

echo

editorial

martha perkins

There were murmurs of greetings, both seasonal and neighbourly. The desire to exchange glad tidings of Christmas was balanced by the instinct to show respect to the quiet dignity of the church. Voices were muted, but the sentiments expressed no less heartfelt.

At the front of the church, Elsie Lewis, dressed festively in burgundy velvet, sat at the original church organ, one of the few people who knows how to master the footpumps which power the instrument. She made that organ sing and in the quieter moments you could hear her feet pumping away to breath life into the timeless music.

The children could not so easily contain their excitement. Seated in the nave and transfixed by the candles held tightly in their hands, they were very much aware that in the darkness outside, Santa's sleigh bells would soon be heard overhead. Still, there was time for a more solemn celebration - as solemn as children can be on Christmas Eve.

Snugly ensconced in a building that had remained virtually unchanged in almost a century, it was easy to imagine that time had indeed stopped, that it was Christmas just as it would have been when the church was first built. Everyone sitting there had probably had a hectic day, rushing to finalize all their holiday plans and gift-buying, making sure the fridge was well stocked for the family feast. But it's almost as if the church itself imposed a sense of calm. The busy-ness would come back soon enough into the lives of the people gathered, but for this hour at least, the church said, it was time to reflect on the eternal messages of Christmas - hope, charity and love.

Sharing such an evening was a gift - the gift of God and the gift of all the people who have worked so hard to lovingly restore the church (but please don't install electricity. It's magical to be in a church lit by lamps and candles.) There may be but two regular services a year - one on Christmas Eve, one on the August civic holiday Sunday to honour those buried in its cemetery - but these faithful volunteers have made sure that at these times, the church's beauty and graceful spirit help to convey the message of strength, love and goodwill. Not only the parishioners at these two services should be thankful; indeed, the entire county can be grateful that this beacon of faith shines so brightly from the little clearing in the woods.

Best wishes of the new year to all The Echo's readers. We hope that in the months to come, you too can find such moments of peaceful reflection as you enjoy all the Highlands has to offer.



Skate skiing at Moose Woods

by Len Pizzey/Echo

T'was the week after Christmas

We outdoorsmen are often

the not so great

accused of being less than thoughtful. But my wife knows different. This weekend I took her snowshoeing, and not only because I needed someone to break a trail.

No, ever the romantic, I knew that there is nothing like time alone in the frigid wilderness to bring a couple closer together. I also perceived that the great outdoors would be a fitting place to give her a late Christmas gift, lovingly crafted with my own hands. And, if that wasn't enough, I immortalized it all in poetry, because, sensitive as I am, I remembered that she loves that kind of crap. Even now, whenever I recite it she cries. Here goes:



steve galea

outdoorsman

'Twas the week after Christmas when all through these hills

We strapped on our snow shoes and had several spills.

Her bindings and poles tangled up in mid-air, When that limb I let go of came out of nowhere. The ravens sat high up above in the oak, Certain that within one more mile she would croak.

With my wife in the snow bank, and I in the drift, I knew I'd created a marital rift.

When high up the slope there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the snow to see what was the matter.

Away from the north it struck just like that branch,

My wife was caught up in a small avalanche. Her frost-bitten face was all covered in snow,

I should have stopped laughing, I should have, I know.

When, what to my watering eyes should appear, But a fistful of snow and a cuff on the ear.

I saw several stars, each one orbiting quick, And I knew in a moment, she had a short wick.

More rapid than eagles, her snowballs they came, And she charged me, and shouted, and called Mom bad names.

Now that hurt! Oh stop it, please cease fire my dear,

Poor sternum! Poor kneecap! Poor spleen and Poor rear!

From the top of the hill to the top of the tree, Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away me! As citizens before Revenue Canada fly, Before they meet with a T4 and have a good cry, So up to the top of that birch tree I flew, If you were there that day, I bet you would too! And then, with a whacking that rattled the trunk, She wielded my hatchet, and chopped out a hunk.

As I drew in my legs, and beseeched her to stop, I gave her the gift I had made in my shop. The coat was of fur, from things I had shot, And though it was warm, it was starting to rot. The stripe of a skunk was aligned on the back, And affixed to each shoulder a stylish buck rack. Her eyes how they squinted! They looked really teary!

Her cheeks they were all frozen, her axe hand was weary!

Her droll little mouth dropped and hung slack, But as she tried on the coat, she started to crack. The bark of the tree I held tight in my grip, As she buttoned it up with a quivering lip. A stuffed muskrat road kill it clung to her belly, And though he was cute, I'll admit he was smelly. He was chubby and plump, and perhaps a bit flat, Hey, I thought that she'd like something cuddly to pat.

He had matching glass eyes and a Styrofoam head,

And unless you looked close you weren't sure he was dead.

She spoke not a word but went straight to her work,

And started a bonfire and called me a jerk.

And untying coyote paws from her throat, She added more kindling and then her new coat.

She sprang to her snowshoes and never did linger And up to the sky she pointed one finger

But she said these words, ere she ran like an elf

"Next time you stuff something, first think of yourself!"

publisher **LEN PIZZEY**

editor **MARTHA PERKINS**

advertising manager **LES FEERO**

Echo 457-1037 Fax 457-3275

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY ECHO is a locally owned independent newspaper serving Haliburton County. Established in 1884, it has been in continuous publication for more than 116 years. THE ECHO is published by: Algonquin Graphics Limited Highland St. & Cedar Ave., P.O. Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 PHONE: 705 457-1037 FAX: 705 457-3275 E MAIL: editorial@haliburtonecho.on.ca

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada, through the Publications Assistance Program (PAP), toward our mailing costs

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY

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1987, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99

A starry night of fun

THE STARS were spread like a blanket overhead as Dave and the children headed out. This was that wonderful week between Christmas and New Year, when their world seemed to slow down to a more manageable pace. The kids were off school, Dave always took a few days vacation and his sister and brother were there with their children, ready for some fun on a winter's night.

The little ones looked stiff and awkward in all their clothes, but they still managed to move around well, pulling their toboggans and sleds behind them. The older children had more exotic vehicles

and Dave carried his personal favourite, a large piece of cardboard. They were all going sliding on the big hill that ran from the top of their laneway down to where the pond always threatened to cross the road in the spring. It was, in fact, a public road and a public hill but they all knew it as well as if it was in their own backyard. When you live in the country, the word 'backyard' can be a relative term.

So they set out, snow crunching, noses tingling every so slightly, while a million stars and the odd satellite, spun in the heavens above

them. This was the first slide of the winter and Dave never knew when, or even if, there would be another- at least here. It all depended on the weather. If there was little snow or mild temperatures, the hill would be partially bare and worthless as a sliding hill. But given the right air and surface conditions, a person could start at the top and push off into a slide with more thrill than any roller coaster. Of course, the more wintry the weather, the fewer cars ventured out on the road, let alone the hill, making it all the more enticing and suited to Dave and the gang.

Dave was a responsible parent. Living in an out-of-the-way spot, a sort of road-off-a-road place, he knew his few neighbours and they knew him and the rest of his family. They always watched for each other on this hill and the chances of anyone being out in a vehicle this night were unlikely. As it turned out, not a one came by during the whole time they were playing there in the night air.

The trip down, shrieking in delight, was all too short, however. Standing at the bottom and looking up to the top of the hill, always had a momentarily dampening effect. But not for too long. It was so much fun to slide down that the walk up was worth the effort. Besides, walking back up along the road's shoulder meant a person could grab a handful of snow and pitch it at a pesky brother or cousin who might in turn respond likewise. Then you were in for some more fun and before you knew it, you were back at the top.

Dave never made as many trips back as the children. He was slower. But he also liked to take his time, gazing into the snowy bush to catch sparkles of snow or admire the purple fingered shadows when there was a moon. Sometimes he imagined foxes or rabbits watching from their dens, hidden and wary. He liked the way his muscles felt in his legs and back as he moved across, then up the snowy incline; strong, stronger than any day spent at a desk or in his car. Dave also liked the way his face felt out there in the night. The skin seemed to breathe in the fresh air, waking up after being indoors. It felt clean and alert. In fact, all of Dave felt this way. But he knew it would not last. There was a line that existed in that time, in that place. On one side was energy, stimulation and on the other was fatigue and cold. The trick always was to start heading home before the line was crossed. Usually Dave was pretty good at knowing when they had all had enough of a good thing. It was the children who struggled to stay for just one more slide.

The time to leave was now, he determined. A few of the little ones were beginning to whine and even the older children were stumbling a bit on their way back up the hill. Dave was just about to give the signal to return to the house, when a snowmobile's headlights shone up the hill. A neighbour, coming back from town, was offering them all rides up the hill following their slide down. Although it was getting late, Dave agreed to a few more trips, knowing the machine was a great treat for everyone. Besides, he had learned long ago to be cautious about turning down kindly offers from neighbours. Sometimes, you had to wait a long time for the next one.

But finally, even the neighbour was saying he was just about ready for bed himself. Dave asked if he'd liked to stop for some hot chocolate first and he agreed. Besides, he had some news for Dave. Waving him on, Dave checked for stragglers and headed for his house. After getting home, stamping off snow and shrugging out of clothes, they all sat down to mugs of hot chocolate and shortbread left from Christmas.

The neighbour said he had not wanted to mention his news outside, for fear of scaring the children. While in town, he had heard of a moose that, for some reason, had been challenging vehicles on the road, on Dave's road. Apparently, the animal had tried to charge more than one pickup and one fellow had spoken of backing up to avoid a confrontation. Dave was dumbfounded. While glad to have the news since he drove on the road himself, he hoped the moose and everyone else would stay calm and safe. He also wondered how the moose felt about hill sliders. Would he see them as vehicles also? And here Dave had thought the only reason there had been no traffic was the cold isolation of the night. Little had he known there was a moose throwing its weight around. Ah, life in the bush, thought Dave with a bemused smile.



sharon lynch

down our road



pic of the past

While we're enjoying one of the best winters in many years for snow-related recreation, it's pleasant to take a mental break from frigid temperatures and dream of those warm summer days, perfect for a picnic. This group of people (individual names were not supplied to us) are from the Gilbert Cottage on Drag Lake. The photo was probably taken in the 1930's. Our thanks to Jean Bradley of Welland for the photo. If you have old photos you'd be willing to share with Echo readers through our Pic of the Past feature, please call Martha Perkins or drop them off at our office. The photos will be returned to you.

letters to the editor

May Hicks' care and concern remembered

Editor's note: This tribute was written in honour of May Hicks, a long-time resident who passed away on December 22, 2000.

A Little Tribute to May

Mrs. May Hicks, you have touched our lives in a variety of good ways, particularly through your kind and generous concerns for others. Knowing that you have experienced a full life of joys and tribulations, and that leaving us had to be, still we are sorry to see you go.

Thank you, May, for your help both near and far. Certainly your yearly involvement with HAVE's Walk For Water, especially through walking, providing sandwiches and donating money, will remain a precious memory. You were indeed a tremendous inspiration to other HAVE participants as well as to the thousands of needy villagers whom you assisted in getting safe drink-

ing water.

On more than one occasion, when visiting village drilled well sites in India, I have personally informed the villagers about our annual Walks, and have shown them your photo in the Walk along with other Walkers. Due largely to such an image, the villagers in the Nabarangpur District of Orissa State have been having, for several years, their own yearly Walks, to help fund the activities of their rural community health centre (RUCHC).

With honour and affection, Mrs. May Hicks has endeared herself both locally and beyond (in India). May is most deserving of the finest tribute available. Her many acts of service to others are very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Gerry Feltham,
HAVE Representative

Alone at Christmas...

echo
guest column

ruth still

For a variety of reasons, I decided to spend Christmas this year apart from my family and at home here with my dog for company. It was such a devastatingly horrendous experience that by now, three days after the special day, I can bear to analyze it and to draw some conclusions.

Last year my dog and I made the rounds of the different family
See Warmth page 10

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur



Warmth and companionship balm to the spirit

from page 9

events staged by my brood of four. A friendly wag of Toby's tail was just the right height to clear the top of any coffee table with disastrous results to white broadloom. Paws on the window ledge with sheer glass curtains in between, left net curtains as a result.

Christmas festivities over, standard practice is to jet off early on the 26th to sun or to ski for a week, leaving me like a gaffed flounder to wend my way home or whatever.

So, this year I went to Toronto on the weekend prior to Christmas, took in a couple of family dinners, a visit to the

Nutcracker Suite (which to a 7-year-old paled by comparison to the hockey game just played and won by his team), and exchanged gifts.

Thus, early Christmas morning finds me, dog curled up in my lap, watching the blue shadows of night yield to the increasing light before the rising sun tops the ridge and its rays flood the valley. It is so still, so lovely and so calm. Inevitably, I begin to wonder if the grandchildren have awakened and rushed downstairs to see what Santa has left and did he drink the milk and eat the cookie left for him. At first I smile, remembering almost 80 such occasions: as a child shar-

ing gifts, once a pony, with siblings, a traditional candy dish on the kitchen table and a goose dinner, and warmth.

Then as a parent, when Christmas morning allowed no time to admire the rising sun. Setting the scene would be finished at about 2 a.m. and we parents would catch a brief sleep. The first patter of small feet could be heard by 5. It was joyous pandemonium. Looking back I marvel at how fast those years of family fun passed.

And I, so involved in the mechanics of the season: the shopping and wrapping, the cards, the decorating, the baking, the cooking and special dinner and entertaining. Did I enjoy it? For certain I should have. Those years of marriage and children became a diminished state with widowhood.

The first tear creeps down. What nonsense. How maudlin! But the torrent is not to be denied and soon I abandon myself to it and sob uncontrollably. At what? I am blessed with adequate comforts. I do have welcoming family. Even in extremes I am sensible that there is a dose of self-pity in my anguish. I chose this alternative. What of those for whom this is the norm at Christmas, old, alone, with no resources?

Along with the aging, I find comes guilt: for omissions, for commissions, for lost opportunities, for misrepresentation,

for insensitivity, for being too independent and never appearing needing emotionally or physically. Shot yourself in the foot there, didn't you, Dumbo? Not as strong and stoical as you make out.

Such a sense of isolation and abandonment! This must be the state of patients admitted to psychiatric institutions at this, their saddest day of the year. The media hype paints a false picture of family togetherness and joy. No wonder many want an end to their lives.

But the day is passing. Stubbornly I await the children's calls to wish me a Merry Christmas (Bah Humbug to that Merry bit). And true enough this was my choice to stay alone, as one of them has- tens to point out.

My equilibrium is returning and besides, I have promised a freshly baked rhubarb pie as an addition to my hosts' dinner that evening. Not only one but four pies to be baked and wouldn't you know the top element in that 'maudit' stove is not working so this baking will be a delicate operation! Just the challenge I needed. And so ended my Christmas collapse.

The balm to the spirit of enjoying the warmth and companionship of good friends sharing a family festive occasion with me completed a Christmas I shall not forget.

Next Christmas?



HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS
HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

2000 "Light The Trees"

For the third year the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation decorates trees with lights sponsored by donations from the Community. So far this campaign has raised **\$24,845.00**. This year proceeds will go towards the building projects and equipment purchases for the Haliburton Hospital Site and Minden Hyland Crest Site. We would like to thank the following who have made a contribution to the 2000 "Light The Trees".

Doug & Iris Adamson, Donna Allen, Anonymous, Joyce Ashfield, John Bailey, Gerry & Marg Baker, Kenneth Bates, Elva Bates, David Beattie, Margery M. Bennett, Ron & Shirley Bennett, John & Ida Bernardi, Frances Binder, Everett & Ruth Bishop, Lee & Marie Blair, Douglas Blaney, Lyn Boone, D. L. Brannan, Wilf & Anna Breiwick, David Brill, Barry & Evelyn Browes, Gordon & Shirley Burns, Don & Edna Burton, Roy & Anna Cameron, Shiela Carter, Robert Carter, Mérie J. Charlton, Gregory & Vera Cheron, Christopher Childs, Miriam R. Christie, Fred & Barbara Clarke, Kenneth Clement, Margaret Collier, Bryn & Joan Cook, Carol Cook, Kathleen Costello, Garnet & Violet Coulter, Wayne & Janis Cox, David & Linda Craig, John & Josephine Davison, Jack & Pamela DeGroot, Bruno & Brucie Delazzer, John & Marie Doney, Donald & Margaret Downey, Hans & Silvia Dummermuth, Beatrice Easton, Sheila Erickson, Donald Fleet, Thomas & Gertrude Flink, Erskine & Gail Flook, Robert Franks, Grant & Lois Gamble, Lidia Gaspar, Donald Geall, Frederick & Goldie Gillies, Alex & Bessie Godin, Doris Gordon, John & Marjorie Hallam, Elinor & Ernest Hamilton, Richard & Lynn Hammett, Wendy Hampson, Maurice & Marion Hands, Andy & Maureen Harjula, Lois M. Harper, Ronald & Joan Hegarty, Carl & Jessie Height, Marga Heinen, Willard & Barbara Hembruff, James K. Henry, Elizabeth Herlihey, James & Mary Hicks, Agatha Hillar, Richard & Isabella Hilyer, William & Patricia Hodgson, Barbara Hodgson, Larry & Nancy Holden, John & Patricia Hollett, Jean Hollobon, Neil Howe, Gillian Hutson, Dean S. Jeffries, William & Margaret Jeske, Bruce & Shirley Johnston, David & Joanne Karam, Gareth & Catherine Kellert, Dolly R. Ketola, Hans & Hilda Kieckhoefer, Kiervin Family Foundation, John Knowles, James A. Lally, Pauline Lantz, James Percy Lavers, Jack & Carol Long, Jaroslav & Dagmar Marsalek, C. James Martin, Eric & Francis Mason, John Mathieson, Peter & Jessie McAuley, Edwin & Beatrice McCann, Bryan & Margaret-Jean McConnell, William & Norma McCoy, George McElroy, Edward McGuirl, James McMath, Muriel Morrison, Jim & Janice Mowder, Donald Moyes, Ray & Norma Nobles, Richard & Judy Obringer, Gail Ogden, Tetsuo Oikawa, Kim Parish, Thomas & Barbara Parish, Ruth Parkes, Ross & June Partridge, G. Piwowarski, Evelyn E. Rainey, Doug & Donna Reinwald, Allan & Ruth Rice, James & Ruth Ridgley, Heinz & Margaret Rieger, Margaret Risk, Arlene B. Robinson, Paul Rodwell, Robert & Claire Shales, Fred Sheppard, Grenville Sholer, Wilda Shuyler, Adolph Sikorski, Michael & Mariangela Simms, Velma Sine, Bryan & Susan Sisson, Lucas Smith, Michael F. Smith, Maurice & Margaret Smith, John & Muriel Smith, Ian D. & Anita Spenser, George & Joy Spicer, Mildred Sproats, Robert & Donna Stanfield, John & Edith Steiger, Doug & Valerie Swailes, Willis & Eileen Thistle, B. M. Thompson, Doug & J. Arlene Thomson, Reg. & Clara Tomkinson, Stanley & Norma Tose, Terry Upton, Olav & Anna Marie Vanderzon, Walker's Heating & Cooling Systems, Dawn Wanless, James & Lois Watson, Joanne Watt, Donald & Anne Weekes, Victor F. Wells, Garry & Laurel Wichman, Ken & Dorothy Wilson, Claus & Ann Wirsig, Gerald & Barbara Wood, Murray & Emily Woods, Murray & Ruth Wruth, William & Hilda Attridge, Christine Bailey, James Bates, Andrew Bruce, Claude Brundage, McKay Brydon, Terry & Michelle Buchkowsky, John Carlton, Peter Ciantar, Hilda Clark, George & Thea Crichton, Mae Davis, Mabel Deacon, Lorne & Anne Dinesen, Murray & Constance Donely, Armand Drolet, Lois Emmerson, Donald & Mary Engels, Jean England, Robert & Barb Fairey, William T. Force, Howard & Yvonne Fullerton, Larry & Sheila Gammon, John & Ruth Gilmour, Peter Graab, Walter Harpur, Elmer Harris, Ross & Jean Horne, Evelyn Johnson, Edward & Madeline Jones, Ken Evans Contracting, Harold & Eleanor Knapp, Edward & Claire Loft, Foster & Dianne Loucks, Thomas & Christine Macartney, Lynda Martin, William & Doris Martyn, Tom & Sandra McCauley, Gordon & Donna Monk, Grant & Allison Montgomery, Peter Moore, Amy Nicholson, Fred & Elizabeth Parker, David & Pearl Rickard, Gwen Cox & Joe Rivers, Steve & Andrea Roberts, Doreen Sandala, S. Schell, Douglas & Marion Simpson, Douglas Sinclair, William & Margaret Small, Jean Smith, Byongho & Jenny Soh, Peter & Marilyn Tosswill, Alfred Walser, Warren & Cathy Whelen, Jean G. Wilson, John & Linda Woodside, Sheila Ziman, Chester Zwolak.

The following supporters wished to make their donations to honour and celebrate the life of someone special to them:

Names & Special People
David & Linda Craig - Dr. J. J. Fraser
James K. Henry - Geraldine Henry (Vickery)
 - Heidi Lund
Laura Willis - Helen Church
Lenore Gillespie - Hadden Gillespie
Fred & Blanche Waller - Eric Trussler

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation sincerely thank Our Honourary Chairmen for Our 2000 "Light The Trees" campaign, **Dr. Emile Campioni** and **Dr. Steve Ferracuti**.

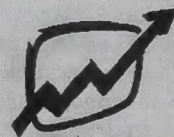
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Students' trip of a lifetime: *Ryan Sisson writes of his adventures with zodiacs and penguins on a visit to Antarctica*

Editor's Note: HHSS students Adam Bathe and Ryan Sisson are taking part in Students on Ice, a scientific expedition to the Antarctic. The following essay by Ryan Sisson was posted on the expedition website, www.students-on-ice.sympatico.ca. An essay and audio journal by Adam are also available on the website.

January 1

Well, let me just say that yesterday was probably the best day of my life.

After lunch our group made its first Zodiac landing on an island called Aitcho. I was a bit nervous of the whole Zodiac experience, because I heard it can be quite a chore getting in and out of the them.

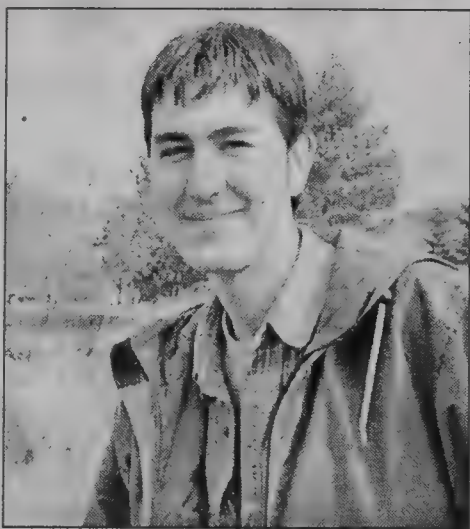
I learned the sailors handshake, which is a hand to wrist grip used in case one person accidentally lets go. Once you get to know the Zodiac and how to get on and off properly the experience turns out to be quite rewarding.

From a distance, the island was very rigid and rough looking. There wasn't a lot of snow on the ground, either. It was mostly bare rubble.

From the ship, which was quite far away, it seemed as though the island contained several black dots. As you get closer, however, you begin to see penguins.

There weren't just a couple of penguins, we're talking hundreds, and thousands. All of the penguins were nesting in different spots. It was very hard not to run up and touch them, there are very strict guidelines that deal with the flora and fauna after the 60th parallel.

As visitors, we must stay at least 5



Ryan Sisson

metres away from the wildlife at all times. Another guideline says not to tamper with the landscape or anything away. Take only memories and pictures, leave only footprints. With all of these guidelines in mind, I thought it would hinder my experience, although in retrospect I feel like it was enriched.

You gain a certain respect for the wildlife as you spend more time watching them in their natural habitat. When we finally landed on the island it was breathtaking. The smell of guano (penguin feces) was very strong. There were so many penguins, on cliffs, by the water, in the water, everywhere except the air (penguins don't fly). There were two types of penguins on the island, gentoo and chinstrap. They were so interesting because they just wad-

dle and jump everywhere.

I took about two rolls of film, so I'll have lots of pictures to show to people when I get back. I sat very still in one spot, with my tripod and camera, with a 300 lens. As I was looking around I noticed a penguin coming closer to me. I sat very still, hoping that he would come right up to me (we must stay 5m away from the penguins, but they don't always follow the rules).

First the gentoo checked out my camera bag and then he came right around me and started to peck at my knee. It was the most exciting experience I've ever had with a wild animal.

After moving around to several other spots and snapping some pictures, I spotted Dr. Kathleen Conlon gathering her gear on shore. It turns out she was waiting for another Zodiac driver to take her around the bay for some plankton and benthic analysis. It was very definitely the opportunity of a lifetime, so I jumped on. As Kathy and I waited, Dr. Warwick Vincent, from the University of Laval (Quebec) came in from his UV analysis of the water.

It ended up he wanted to go out with us as well, so there I was having the trip of a lifetime, totally immersed in nature and working with two world class scientists. I assisted Dr. Conlon with her benthic sample, which was taken by dragging a small net behind the Zodiac. I had some previous experience with this, through Mr. Mowat at my high school. Our most important finds were a jellyfish and the amphipods. The types of organisms, and their quantity reflects how healthy the ecosystem is.

After the Zodiac ride, our New Year's Eve plans got underway. My horoscope group (Scorpio) had to make a toast or limerick at dinner. Our was on the Drake Passage, which caused us so much trouble.

Afterwards, we all gathered in the lecture hall for our New Years Eve talent show. I was in a skit called the "Doctors Office", it was all improv. It was tons of fun, and other talented people performed for us.

Geoff Green played some Gordon Lightfoot songs on his guitar, and Patrick recited the first 250 numbers of pi. Olle Carlsson sang us a Swedish song, and the group had several sing songs to ring in the New Year. WELCOME 2001!!!!

A group of us visited the bridge last night to celebrate the New Year. We were in the middle of an iceberg field, and our route on radar looked impossible. We were definitely in iceberg alley. I spent the rest of the evening with Josh, Frances and Alex Boston (from the David Suzuki Foundation), we talked about environmental politics and how teenagers can make a difference. As I write this to you right now, I feel at home on the ship. I couldn't have asked for a better extended family.

Today we went to another Gourdian Island; we haven't actually set foot on the Antarctic continent's soil. I would be curious to know if anyone is actually reading this, so please send us your comments or questions.

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Lining up for free hotdogs, above.

At left, one of the WinterDance sled dogs waits his turn to take people on a free ride through the park



Dysart rings in the New Year with fun, food and fireworks at Head Lake Park



Watching the fireworks

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A free program is being offered for smokers trying to quit.

Run by the Health Unit, this three week program will begin Thursday, January 11 at 7 p.m.

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A celebration of winter marks first day of 2001 in Dysart



Hot dogs, sled dog rides, a bonfire and miniature snowmobile rides were highlights of day at Head Lake Park on Monday. Above, Blaine Sisson watches the fireworks with his granddaughter, Sydney Feir

Photos by
MARTHA PERKINS



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Perfect snow conditions attract hundreds of outdoor enthusiasts to county

from page 1

tions. (Nordic skiers, she noted, tend to drop by the Chamber office to find out where the trails are.)

"We're extremely busy," says Kim Thompson of Wedgewood Marina, which rents out snowmobiles. "I could use more machines."

"It's crazy," agrees Brenda Newell of Kushog Marine. "If I had 60 sleds I could rent them all out, especially for the New Year's weekend."

Newell says that with such a good base of snow for the groomers to work with, people are very happy with the trails. "This year they say the trails are like glass, really smooth."

"It's been wonderful," says Sharon Petrisor of the Haliburton County Snowmobile Association.

By the end of December, the HCSA had sold as many trail permits - 2,400 - as it had the entire previous winter.

"I can't believe how many people from the States come here," she says. "We have a great reputation for well-groomed trails."

"It's like someone just turned on the key again," says a very happy Paul Prentice of Prentice Power Sports.

He sits on a Bombardier advisory group and it was a pretty nervous autumn for everyone. The lack of snow in previous winters was having an effect on sales this year, but as December came to a close, those fears vanished.

"I took my daughter for our traditional Boxing Day ride and the trails were incredibly busy,"

he says and the local streets and highways are just as bustling as people arrive to enjoy the snow. "The community is abuzz."

The peak time is still to come - the four weeks at the end of January and beginning of February. That's the time when more Americans make their snowmobile trips because there's more likely to be snow.

Although the HCSA's groomers have been out for a few weeks, there are still some trails which haven't been opened but "we're pretty well up to speed."

Karen Perrott of Outdoors Plus has been amazed at the number of snowmobilers who ride right to her door to buy their outdoor and fishing equipment. "I've noticed a lot of snowmobilers - it's just unbelievable."

The days before Christmas and during the holiday week were busy ones for the Perrotts. "There's lots of snow, lots of ice and people are happy," she says.

Also smiling are businesses which cater to cross country skiing.

"Conditions have never been better. Skiing is at its best," says Jurgen Haedicke, treasurer of the nordic ski association and owner of Halimar Lodge on Lake Kashagawigamog.

The trail manager says the trails have been packed this holiday week.

This year, agreements with landowners have allowed the association to open and groom approximately 80 kilometres of trails and if memberships continue to sell well, more trails may be developed for next winter.

MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO



A snowboarder gets some air at Sir Sam's Ski Area in Eagle Lake over the holiday. The popular ski hills were busier than ever, as were the cross country ski trails and snowmobile trails. Cottagers and tourists knew there was lots of snow in the Highlands and that provided them with the perfect reason to spend part of their holiday here.

ter.

Haedicke says the interest in skiing was enhanced by the all the media attention Haliburton got when a state of emergency was called to deal with the half-metre of snow that fell one night in early December.

"Our phone was ringing off the hook because people knew we had snow," Haedicke says before good-naturedly adding that the state of emergency "was a good promotion."

"It was our busiest year ever," Chris Bishop says of the

holiday crowds at Sir Sam's Ski Hill. "Skier visits were up 20 percent. The early snow here and in Toronto got everyone in the mood and the way the holiday fell was just perfect."

Sir Sam's is expecting the busy-ness to continue this week as kids look for fun ways to enjoy not being in school. The hill is adding new rate incentives to make sure that skiing and snowboarding is on their list of activities.

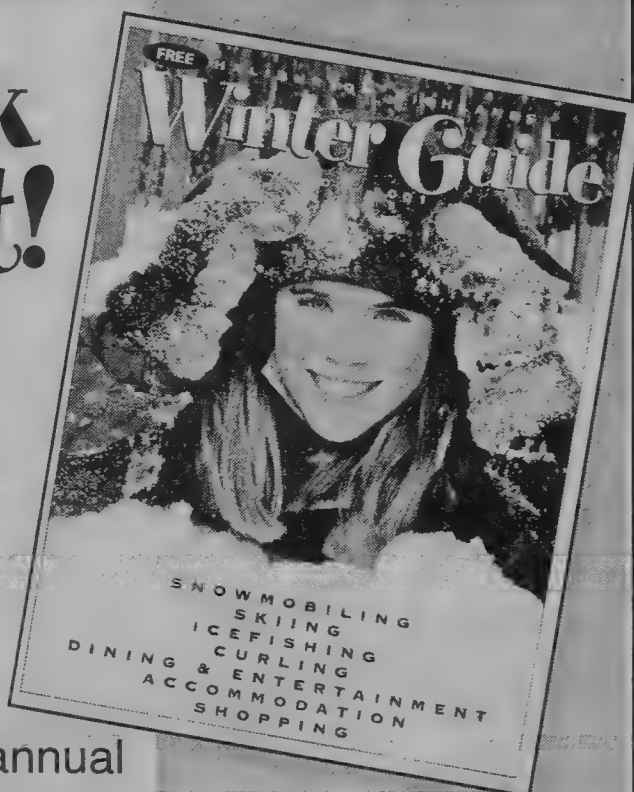
Meanwhile, it was a busy holiday week at the Haliburton

Hospital's emergency department because there were so many people in the Highlands, Lynne Johnston says. However, there wasn't the overcrowding that many departments across Ontario experienced last Christmas because of the 'flu. There have been few 'flu cases so far but Johnston says it's too early to tell if it's because of the massive vaccination program undertaken by the province and health unit.

"It's either that or the 'flu hasn't hit yet," she says.

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Local MP John O'Reilly named as new Parliamentary Secretary for National Defence

John O'Reilly, Member of Parliament for Haliburton-Victoria-Brock was appointed by the Prime Minister to serve as the Parliamentary Secretary for National Defence, effective immediately.

O'Reilly has been on the Defence and Veteran's Affairs Committee since 1993 and was part of the group that produced the 'Quality of Life' report that changed the structure of the Canadian Armed Forces with improved pay and benefits, better equipment and improved housing allowances.

"I have helped monitor the recommendations with over 60% of the 87 recom-

mendations acted on and the rest are in the process of being studied, before being implemented," O'Reilly says in a press release.

The role of Parliamentary Secretary is to fill in for the Minister in the House of Commons at Question Period and other events, both in Canada and other coun-



John O'Reilly

tries that Canada has members of the military serving.

"I look forward to the new challenge to act as assistant to the Minister of Defence as I will be able to continue with the improvements that are required to maintain an effective military for Canada.

My goal in serving on the committee was to ensure sufficient equipment, training and pay was a priority for the military and I will be able to continue to work in that direction," O'Reilly said.

Board of education budget now tops \$131-million

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board's annual report shows how it spent its \$131.3-million total budget.

Teachers and classroom support: \$86.9-million or 66.2%

Custodial and maintenance: \$12.7-million or 9.7%

Transportation: \$11.3-million or 8.7%

School administration (principals, vice-principals and secretaries): \$9.7-million or 7.4%

Texts and computers: \$6.4-million or 4.9%

Central administration (payroll, accounting, computer services, human resources, etc.): \$4.3-million or

Haliburton School of the Arts gets top marks from its students

The following article was in the Sir Sandford Fleming College newsletter:

Students couldn't have given higher praise to the Haliburton School of the Arts this year. Ninety-seven percent rated their courses excellent. Two percent said they were good.

The popular summer programs attract a growing number of students every year, says co-ordinator Shelley Schell. This year was no exception.

Registration was up 4.4 percent compared to last year and has risen 10 per-

cent in the past four years. And many students don't stop at one course. This year, 60 percent had studied at the school before.

Who do the painting, pottery, sculpture and other fine arts courses appeal to? About 80 percent of students this summer were female and most were between 45 and 64 years old. About a fifth were teachers. Twenty percent were taking courses for professional interest and 10 percent said they depended on their work in the arts for 50 percent of their income.

Owner fined for letting dog run loose

On December 21, 2000 after a trial in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, a Haliburton man was convicted and fined for allowing his dog to run at large in the village of Haliburton.

It is the first such conviction in Dysart et al for more than 20 years.

The Lakeview Street man was charged on August 21, 2000 after receiving sever-

al warnings about permitting his dog to run at large. The Justice fined the man \$90 plus costs.

The municipality would like to remind dog owners that a dog control by-law is in place regulating the licensing and control of dogs and that it will be enforced. Year 2001 dog licences are now available.

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Anglers on Grass and Kashagawigamog Lakes asked to help out with creel survey

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources, will be conducting a walleye and lake trout creel census on Grass Lake and Kashagawigamog Lake from January 3 to March 31.

The census takers will be asking anglers questions, taking fish measurements and collecting scale samples.

The Ministry of Natural

Resources, by collecting this data today, will be better able to manage the existing fisheries in the chain of lakes for future generations.

This census will not only benefit fishing opportunities but will also enhance our local economy through the contracting of local residents to do the work. Anglers are asked to get involved and get informed.



BOB LEFROY/ECHO

The Haliburton rink of Tom Harkness, Art Cook, Al Degrave and Dave Sovereign competed in the quarter finals at the Ontario Curling Association's senior zone curling championship at the Haliburton Curling Club recently. They lost in an extra end. The event's two winners, Tom Cushing's rink from the Peterborough Curling Club and Ed Benetin's rink from the Lakefield Curling Club, advanced to the regionals in Lakefield.

Rockets' luck runs out after winning three games

by KATHY BLIZZARD

With the Christmas rush on and being pre-occupied with it, I can only update you on the very basic details of our Rockets' games.

On Dec. 16 the Rockets hosted the Omemee team and skated away with a win of 4-2.

Dec. 17 took them to Cannington to play the B#1's where we brought home a win of 5-2.

On Dec. 28, we again went to Cannington to play the B#2 team and came away with a win of 7-0.

Their luck ran out when we went to Manvers where we suffered a loss of 5-3. (Guess we needed the big guy on that one.) Our next game is Jan. 7 when we host the Sunderland team.

On behalf of the Wilberforce Rockets I would like to wish you all, a very safe and happy new year

January 5, Atom vs Omemee, 7:00

January 5, PeeWee vs Minden, 8:30

January 6, Novice tournament

January 7, Mite vs

Bobcaygeon, 10:30

January 7, Minor Tyke vs

Woodville, 11:30

January 7, Major Tyke vs

Bobcaygeon, 12:30

January 7, Novice vs

Bobcaygeon, 3:00

January 7, Novice B vs 1, 10:30

Omeme, 4:15

January 7, Atom B vs

Sunderland B2, 5:15

January 9, Bantam vs

Cannington, 7:15

January 12, Novice B vs

Minden, 5:00

January 12, Atom vs Fenelon

Falls, 7:00

January 12, PeeWee vs

Bobcaygeon, 8:30

January 14, Mite vs Mariposa

January 14, Minor Tyke vs

Minden, 11:30

January 14, Novice vs

Omeme, 3:00

January 14, Novice B vs

Mariposa, 4:15

January 14, Atom B vs

Woodville, 5:15

January 20, PeeWee vs

Wilberforce, 5:00

January 28, Novice B vs

Sunderland, 4:15

Husky Home Game Schedule

WALLEYE ANGLERS !!!

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in conjunction with the Ministry of Natural Resources has tagged walleye on the Kashagawigamog Lake chain...

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

If you catch a tagged walleye in this lake chain here is what you should do:
If you release the fish, nothing has to be done (DO NOT remove the tag).

If you keep the fish, please record the following information;

Date

Location

Tag # (this is the most important piece of information)

Total Length (by squeezing the two lobes of the tail fin together)

Please send the information to:

Ministry of Natural Resources

Minden Area Office

Box 820

Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Attn: David Flowers

or call: 286-1521

or email: david.flowers@mnr.gov.on.ca

The information collected will provide excellent data on walleye growth rates and movement patterns and will allow the M.N.R. to better manage the Walleye fishery in the Kashagawigamog chain.

What the Tag looks like



Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program



LAKE TROUT ANGLERS !!!

The Ministry of Natural Resources has tagged Lake Trout on Halls Lake and Miskwabi Lake
YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The trout were tagged with both an external 'T-tag' and an internal 'PIT-tag'.

The 'T-tags' were attached near the dorsal fin and will be easy to see.

The 'PIT-tags' were inserted just under the skin and will be difficult to notice.

In Miskwabi Lake the 'PIT-tag' was inserted in the cheek area. In Halls Lake the 'PIT-tag' was inserted either in the cheek or between the front fins.

If you catch a tagged lake trout on either of these lakes here is what you should do:

If you release the fish, nothing has to be done (DO NOT remove the tags).

If you keep the fish, please record the following information;

Date

Location

T-tag # (this is the most important piece of information)

Total Length (by squeezing the two lobes of the tail fin together)

Please send the information to:

Ministry of Natural Resources

Minden Area Office

Box 820

Minden, ON K0M 2K0

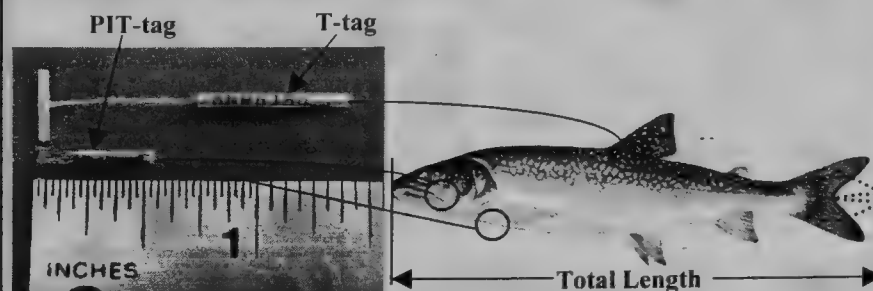
Attn: David Flowers

or call: 286-1521

or email: david.flowers@mnr.gov.on.ca



The information collected will provide excellent data on lake trout growth rates and movement patterns and will allow the M.N.R. to better manage the lake trout fishery on Halls and Miskwabi Lakes.



Fast and fun: *Sprint races bring excitement to Glebe Park this Saturday*

The Haliburton Sprints are coming to town Saturday, Jan 6 at 10 at Glebe Park. These races are something new in skiing: short distances and heats. It's fast, fun and furious. It is also an event to look forward to at the 2002 Olympics. Furthermore, Beckie Scott, our best Canadian national team skier, has been doing well in sprint events recently, so we can look forward seeing more of these events soon.

sports column

nordic notes

blake paton

The program has blossomed into the second largest in the province, and it shows no sign of letting up. It's fun and it if were any cheaper you'd be getting paid to bring your kids out to learn to ski. Questions? Call Jane Heyes at 457-1465 for details.

The snow's great, the glide's good, everything is magic in the woods. On these fine cold days of skiing it seems like the trails were dropped here by magic just for us. Great snow helps, but history helps too. Every time we ski we are skiing on the years of effort put into the trails by predecessors.

The other day I was skiing the (it's fair to say) historic Jim Beef Trail, and one old-timer I was with pointed to a sign and said, "I put that sign up in 1978. It's one of the few the porcupines haven't eaten."

If you haven't skied this trail recently, then make a plan to ski it before the end of the season. It's a great ski, full of challenge and the unexpected. Today, for example, I noticed the remains of an unlucky grouse who was caught by a fox in the middle of the trail. Keep your eyes peeled and you never know what you may see.

Skiers can thank Dr. Brenda Derjanecz who restored access to the trail after recent logging. She and her late husband Dr. John Derjanecz supported the goal of the ski club for many years: making the beauty of the Highlands accessible to everyone through skiing. Credit should also go to our trail manager Wes Lytle for the excellent grooming.

If you are not currently a ski club member, then you're missing out on a whole lot of fun and the best deal on skiing in the free world. A season pass is a ludicrously cheap \$60, or \$110 for the whole family. Call 448-3954 for more information from Pat Cummings, our friendly membership secretary.

Novice A Huskies are poetry in motion

by SHERRIL SHERWOOD

'Twas four nights before Christmas
When, at Minden's house,
Fans cheered on Husky Novice A players
For sure, you couldn't hear a mouse!

The blue and white stockings
The Huskies do wear,
Flew gracefully around the arena,
How did they fare?

The Huskies all took to the ice
Like a pro,
Minden watched the visitors' scoreboard,
It continued to grow.

The Husky centremen each got
A hat trick that night,
Daniel Sisson's shot almost hit Bruce,
What a sight!

Daniel's stick, it flew magically

And scored a fine goal,
He managed to find
The Minden goalie's black hole!

Monarch's twice found the back
Of the Haliburton net,
"This time will be different," they thought,
"We'll beat those Huskies yet!"

With visions of a tie up
Dancing in their heads,
The Minden Monarch team had
A game every player dreads.

They fought hard that night
To get back the game
But to their dismay
The score stayed the same.

And when it was obvious
The win was out of sight,
The Monarchs bid the Huskies
A Merry Good Night!

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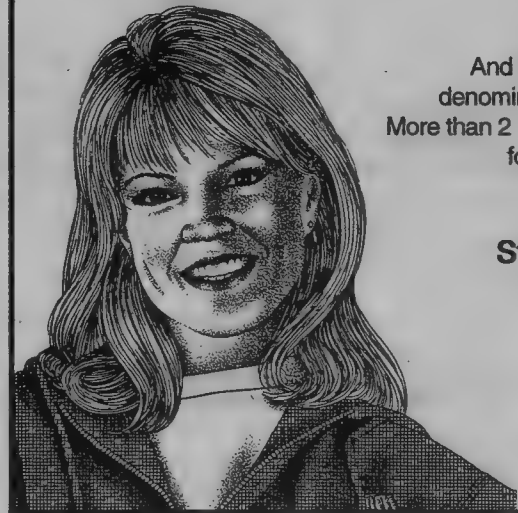
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Call 457-2074 to register



Alpha

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For the nearest Driver and Vehicle Licence Issuing Office, please visit the Ministry of Transportation's Web site at: www.mto.gov.on.ca or consult the Government Blue Pages in your telephone book, under "Licences and Permits."

notices

notices notices



NOTICE

MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to enact at its regular meeting to be held on Monday, January 8th, 2001, a by-law to rename a portion of North Kennis Drive.

The portion of North Kennis Drive affected by the proposed by-law is shown on Plans 585 to 590 inclusive, south of the Kennis River. The portion of North Kennis Drive north of the Kennis River is not affected by this by-law.

The proposed name is West Shore Drive.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law at its meeting to be held as noted above, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that he will be adversely affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (9:00 am. to 5:00 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 11th day of December, 2000.

Patricia E. Martin
M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Township Planner

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SHERBORNE, McCLINTOCK, LIVINGSTONE, LAWRENCE AND NIGHTINGALE

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Sherborne, McClintock, Livingstone, Lawrence and Nightingale proposes to enact a By-Law to stop up, close and sell that part of the original shore road allowance set out and described as follows:

Township of Livingstone, County of Haliburton, being part of the original shore road allowance in front of Lot 9, Concession 4, Township of Livingstone, designated as Parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 on Plan 19R-6879.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, North Shore Rd., Stanhope, Ontario, on the 5th day of January, 2001 at the hour of 2:00 p.m., and at that time the Council will hear any person or by his Counsel, Solicitor or Agent any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard.

DATED: November 22, 2000.

Diane J. Griffin,
Clerk-Treasurer,
Corporation of the Township of
Sherborne, McClintock, Livingstone,
Lawrence and Nightingale.

This original shore road allowance is located in front of Lot 9, Concession 4, Township of Livingstone, along the shore of Livingstone Lake and upon being closed and stopped up will be sold to owners of land abutting.

Part 2 - Durocher/Hammond; Parts 1 and 5 - McHenry; and Parts 3 and 4 - Ministry of Natural Resources.

Haliburton Major Tykes host nail-biter of a tournament

The Husky Major Tykes held their annual tournament on Thursday, December 28.

The boys were hyped for their 8:00 a.m. game, when coach Ted Vasey let the dogs out against Bracebridge for a 8-0 win. Mark Vasey opened the scoring early in the first with a slick shot from the hash marks at an almost impossible angle, to find his target.

Riley Maracle, Tom Nichol and Nick Freeman were a line to be reckoned with, as they remembered those famous words "Drive to the net!" Riley let a quick one go leaving a bouncing rebound that Nick took full advantage of, to end the first.

Ian Bottum was between the pipes demonstrating his agility. Making a butterfly save at one side of the net, he quickly stacked the pads to cover the other side from the rebound, keeping his shut out alive.

Meanwhile, Nick was on fire, scoring his second goal on a pass play from Riley and Tom. Teamwork was the name of this game as Carson Roberts, Brandon Yake and Chris Judge showed us how. Carson cycled the puck behind the net to Brandon in the corner. With rapid fire action Brandon found Chris in the slot, who proceeded to lift the puck over the goalie and rack the score to 7-0. With less than a minute left, Chris found the net again to gain a hat trick.

The game of the tournament had to be when Haliburton and Uxbridge met. This game was a nail biter from start to finish. The Husky pack was a united force as each member played their individual best. Defensively, Haliburton showed its strength. Zane Zanderyan, Mark, Chris and Ian prevented numerous clear shots on net.

Goalie Tom was described as a cat in a frying pan as he covered all angles plus more. As one fan remarked

this game was "the battle of the goalies."

With 3-1/2 minutes left in the third, Uxbridge was charging, Zane was neck and neck with his man and took a good penalty for the team, keeping the game scoreless. The momentum was on Uxbridge's side as they opened the scoring with 2:50 on the clock. Haliburton pulled their goalie with a minute twenty left. The Huskies drove, drove, drove to the net, but were unable to catch a break.

This was a heart breaker for Haliburton and it was unfortunate either team had to lose.

The Huskies' third game was against East Guilmibury for the B finals. The Major Tykes welcomed Brett Yake into the pack for this final game. His enthusiasm was a delight to watch.

The Huskies' usual spark did not show itself until half way through the second period, when a wrap around attempt by Riley was finished off by Ian to put this team on the score board and cut East Guilmibury's lead to 2. Carson "the tornado" was unrelenting in his attacks, and appeared in the middle of every scramble. Haliburton put up a good fight, but East Guilmibury took this one 6-4.

A special thank you to all the parents who worked so hard to make this tournament a success.

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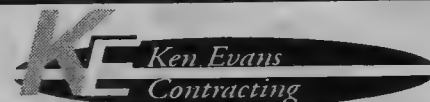
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ONTARIO GOVERNMENT TENDER

NOTICE TO EQUIPMENT OWNER/OPERATORS

THERE WILL BE AN INFORMATION SESSION HELD
FOR THIS TENDER
• HUNTSVILLE AREA

January 24th, 2001, Approximately 7:00p.m. to 9:30p.m. at
the Huntsville Legion.

TENDER #50-00-83

Closing Date

February 1, 2001 at 1:30p.m. Local (North Bay) Time

The MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION of Ontario requests tenders for Operational Services (operated equipment, traffic control persons and labour persons) for various locations in the Huntsville area.

Operated Equipment Requirements

Loaders, Combination Backhoe and Front End Loaders, Bulldozers, Hydraulic Backhoes, Brushsaws, Carrier Mounted Excavators, Carrier Mounted Telescopic Booms (Gradall), Chainsaws, Wood Chippers, Farm Tractors, Compactors, Tractor and Floats, Water Trucks, Dump Trucks, Graders, Hydraulic Carrier Mounted Cranes, Boom Trucks, and Steamers.

Labour Requirements

Manual Labour Persons and Traffic Control Persons

Covering Period

April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Interested bidders must contact CEBRA at www.merx.cebra.com or 800-964-6379 to obtain tender documents. Tenders received from any other source will be rejected.

Bidders on a suspended list will have their tenders rejected and returned unopened.

Pour de plus amples renseignements en français, veuillez composer (705) 472-7900 ext 6279.



Ontario

Recycle your Christmas tree

• Placed in the garden or backyard, the Christmas tree will provide winter shelter for small birds. Another good idea is to decorate the tree again. This time hang it with special treats for the birds: Orange slices will attract birds, as will peanut butter spread on tree seed cones; or hang suet balls stuffed with sunflower seeds. If you set your tree outside for the birds, remember to carefully remove all tinsel. Birds will try to eat the shiny stuff and it will make them sick.

• A Christmas tree's branches and needles make a good mulch in the garden, especially for plants like rhododendrons which like an acid soil.

• Fir tree foliage can be stripped from the branches and snipped into small pieces for stuffing into aromatic fir needle pillows for the sofa or bedroom. Some people also use fir foliage in dresser drawers to give clothing and blankets a fragrant aroma.

• Large quantities of used trees make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially at beaches.

• Old Christmas trees stacked together in a forest provide shelter for rabbits and other small animals.

• Sunk into fish ponds, Christmas trees make excellent refuge and feeding areas.

Communication course for couples offered

Parents! This year, why not give each other the gift of building a stronger and more satisfying relationship? Family Services is offering a communication course for couples. By investing three or four hours a week together for five weeks, you can learn skills which will significantly improve the quality of your communication with each other. And that can only benefit other family members who look to you for leadership.

About the course

Since its development at the University of Minnesota Family Study Centre in the early 1970s, over 500,000 couples around the world have participated in the program...and more than 65 independent research studies on the program at major universities have

shown its positive results.

About the benefits

- more effective ways of talking and listening
- better understanding of self and partner
- faster, more satisfying resolution of conflicts
- more enjoyment of one another
- reduced misunderstandings, tension and hostility
- deeper sharing of experiences
- more mutually pleasing decisions
- improved parent-child communication
- more productive communication at work

Who should attend?

Parents in a committed, loving relationship who wish to communicate more effectively.

About the leaders

Norris Turner and Beth Johns have taught this course for the past eight years to over 60 couples.

Couples will be expected to:

- read a chapter from a workbook at home each week
- practise the skills during group sessions
- coach and be coached by others who are also learning the skills
- practise the skills between sessions using various homework assignments

To enroll

Call Family Services, 457-5345, and ask to talk to Norris Turner. A \$10 fee helps with the cost of the workbook.

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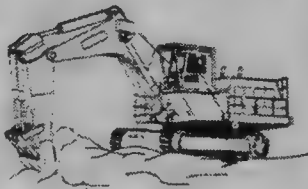
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community calendar

what's happening in the Highlands

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• Adult Skating is now available at the Minden Arena on Friday evenings from 6 - 6:50. Pay as you go. Contact Joachim at 489-2020 for more info.

• Join the Walking Club, sponsored by the Heart and Stroke Foundation. In Minden, people can walk week day mornings from 7:30 to 8:15 at Archie Stouffer Elementary School. For more info. call Morris Duff at 286-6079. In Haliburton, the week day morning walks are from 7:15 to 8:15 at the high school. For more info. call Al Gostock at 457-3362 or Jacqueline and Kelly Metcalf at 457-3756. "Be wise - exercise."

• Ontario Breast Screening Program - Victoria County. For women 50 years and over, screening every Thursday at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay. No doctor referral necessary. Call Mon. - Fri. for an appointment, 705-328-6175.

• Scottish Country Dancers meet every Monday evening at JD Hodgson School gym, 7:30 p.m. Beginners and singles welcome. Call 286-1218 or 447-2509.

• Climax Climbing Club - Tuesday evenings at Camp Medeba in West Guilford. Families: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. children and parents climb together; Youth: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Drop-In Indoor Rock-Climbing. \$3. per person. Everyone welcome. Children under 13 yrs. must be accompanied by an adult. Parental permission required for youth under 18 yrs. For more information call Greg at Family Services of Haliburton County, 457-5345.

• 2nd Tuesday of every month - Parent Finders Kawartha invites all interested parties, adopted and fostered adults, birth and adoptive parents to our meeting, 7 p.m., 230 Angeline St. S., Lindsay. Contact Sandi for more info, 359-1172.

• Jan. 4: Grief Support Group for all bereaved, 2 - 4 p.m. in Lindsay. "Feelings" will be our topic. For information call Palliative Care Victoria at 324-2811.

• Jan. 16: The Haliburton/Kawartha Maple Syrup Producers will hold their Annual Meeting/Information Day on Tuesday, Jan. 16, in Bobcaygeon at the Cagoon Lanes. Registration 9 a.m. with meeting at 10 a.m. Non-members are welcome. Day will include a tour of Martins' Sugar Camp. For further info. contact Bill at (705) 457-2176.

• Jan. 18: Grief Support Group for all bereaved, 2 - 4 p.m. in Lindsay. "Coping with Social Situations" will be our topic. For information call Palliative Care Victoria at 324-2811.

• Feb. 1: LIFT, Ladies In Fellowship Together, invite you back this New Year to celebrate the "Love" month at West Guilford Recreation Centre, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Special feature: "Creative Memories" with albums, Pat Wicks, Minden. Love Notes from soloist Phyllis Fisher, Peterborough. Speaker: "Creating a Memorable Story", Doreen Smith, Kennis Lake. Free admission - come out, bring a friend. You'll be "lifted". For more info call: Alice, 754-2808, or Lyn, 457-3155. Sponsored by Women's Ministries, West Guilford Baptist Church.

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to editorial@haliburtonecho.on.ca., or brought in to the office. **NOTE:** This calendar is **NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING OF ALL EVENTS** taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in The Echo for more information on events and in the Highlands.

Families gather from far and near at Christmas

Christmas Day ranged all the way from "We'll be by ourselves this year" to "There'll be 27 for dinner. We'll find places somewhere to sit." Large or small, it was a special time for everyone. In some places sadness due to recent bereavement, in others extraordinary joy because of a new baby in the family or people home

community news

west guilford

Eleanor Cooper
754-2385

from great distances.

Here we have Kim and Andy Cooper from Halifax and Beth and Paul from St. Catharines. At the Sidney Coopers, all three

boys were home: Jaro, Ian and Nadia, and Paul and Marlene. A number of couples from former Royal Roads days gathered here for New Year's Eve celebrations.

The Perrys, John and Marion, had the pleasure of their granddaughter Dawn Perry's company from Don Mills.

The Stamp families gathered at the Centre on Boxing Day for a roast beef dinner organized by Robin and Brenda. Carl Upton played guitar and Darcy, Craig's son, played violin for the carol singing. All of Faye's family were home: Sherrie and Craig and family from Calgary, Lynne from Orangeville, Wade and Alison from Elmvalle and, of course, Derrell and Kim from Haliburton. Jeff had been home from Atlanta for the days prior to Christmas and the family dinner with Greg and parents took place earlier. Faye's dad, Walter Morrison, also joined the family on the 25th.

Barb, Gerald and Danika Morrison of Elora and Jean from St. Catharines were with the Perry Morrisons.

The three Milne boys with their wives and families were all with Jim and Maggie for the holiday. Maggie has been supplying at Apsley Anglican Church for the Sundays in November and December while the Rev. George Quibell has been absent due to illness.

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Hwy 648, Wilberforce 9:00 a.m. Worship

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Millennium committee wraps up year of work with candlelight New Year's Eve dance

The Christmas Eve Carol Service at the Essonville historic church truly celebrated the birth of Christ. With natural boughs and other old fashioned decorations under the light of coal oil lamps, carols were sung and the message of Christmas told through readings and presentations. The children's choir was especially well received. Much appreciation for this touching event goes to the committee that operates this historic building and all who planned and took part in the service.

The last event planned by the Monmouth Millennium Committee was a New Years Eve dance party at the townships Lloyd Watson Centre. Despite the challenge of preparing the hall, ridding it of clutter and cleaning the tables and chairs all covered with renovation concrete dust, the committee and friends with determination had everything in shape.

To the music of the Candlelight Combo, with leader Don Wright on saxophone, Vivian Hetherington on

Keyboard, Mike Burroughs on drums, and vocalist, Caroline Dahlke, a small group of partiers danced the year 2000 away. We said good-bye to Monmouth and hello to 2001 and Highlands East. Good

music, good company, good dancing, good food – A good finale to the efforts of the hardworking Millennium Committee.

The New Year was celebrated and 2001 welcomed at the Harcourt Community Centre to the music of the Gerry Seaboyer Band, at the Legion to the music provided by D.J. Ken Steele, at house parties and quietly at home.

Curling leagues resume regular play this week at the Curling Club and Curlers look forward to the smoke free Bonspiel and January 27.

The Annual Meeting of the Wilberforce Heritage Guild takes place Mon. Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Outpost Historic House. All welcome to this review of the year 2000 work.

The inaugural meeting of the new Highland East will be held at 9 a.m. on Monday, January 8 at the Municipal Office in Wilberforce. We wish them well in bringing the operation of four former municipalities into one. We hope the work of the Transition Board will prove to have been useful to ease the effort of this huge task.

People can share stories on the web

Canadians now have access to an exciting new website that aims to celebrate the many stories, voices and experiences of Canadians.

The Canadian Film Centre's Great Canadian Story Engine is a bilingual site on the Internet where Canadians can 'publish' their own stories, and learn about each other in a new way.

The site will be hosted by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and is made possible with major funding from the Canada Millennium Partnership Program and the generous support of Historica Foundation of Canada.

You will find the site at www.storyengine.ca.

It is looking for first-person narratives that touch the heart or tickle the senses. They may be familiar or may surprise. They may move the reader to tears or laughter. Or, they may simply entertain and inform. But above all, it's hoped they will inspire other Canadians to contribute their voices to the project.

Bob Heinze remembered as the man who helped nurture the idea of transforming Eagle Lake into Ontario's Rhubarb Capital

So now we begin the third millennium. Last year's New Year's dress rehearsal was a bit of a fizzle, a definite non-event! Our snow covered village resembles a Vermont or Austrian alpine ski village. Cars loaded with skis come bound for Sir Sams Ski Centre. Snow conditions for the Christmas holiday period are unbelievably good, the weather perfect, Bob Bishop's understatement, "Benign winter conditions".

Recent events in the village were" The Carol Sing at the beach on Dec. 22. Fifty-five people bundled to the ears against the cold, stood in the snow round the blazing fire, sipping hot chocolate or cider and sang with gusto. It helped to keep warm. Congratulations to the Rhubarb Committee for this innovative idea for the Christmas season. On Christmas Eve, once again the church choir and young people presented their annual tribute to the season entitled, "Nocturne".

The two services at 7:00 and at 9:00 were well attended and for many, give the season a biblical context often sadly neglected now.

We mourn with the Rowell family, the passing of Mike's mother Kay on Dec. 23. She leaves behind in the village, Mike and Sue and children Sheila, Steven and Melissa.

The village has also lost a friend in the untimely passing of Robert (Bob) Heinze this past week. We feel a special sorrow for his mother Phyllis and for Robin his new wife of three months and a comparative stranger in our midst. How can we help?

The concept of Eagle Lake as "The Rhubarb Capital of Ontario" might not have been born without Bob's midwifery skills and encouragement. In 1990 Bob was

councillor for ward 5 which includes Eagle Lake. At a business breakfast which I hosted re: a proposed subdivision, he commented on one of the jams on the table, "Rhubarb Conserve". I confessed my interest in this lowly plant as a local product by which one might propel our village to fame and fortune.

Bob caught the fire and willingly agreed to take to Council and serve, my rhubarb punch (non alcoholic). I never heard exact details of its reception but I suspect that Council amazed at such a zany, innocuous

idea, gave tacit approval and got approval from the Peterborough Tourism authority. Thus we were launched as the Rhubarb Capital of Ontario in 1991. (a year later the village of Shedden claimed this title directly from Queens Park).

Bob attended all of the early Rhubarb Festivals helping wherever needed, bolstering with that sense of humour. I especially remembered his support

after the tornado when we had no power, and were hosting guests from Shedden. Bless you Bob for turning a disaster into an occurrence. The rhubarb idea may not have brought fame and fortune but this will be our tenth Rhubarb Festival in 2001. Our Rhubarb Committee is recognized as the village voice, and we have created a popular beach resort. We will miss your input and support, Bob.

To add to the possible activities in the village, we now have as a recent resident, Evelyn Morgan, lately of Peterborough who is a well-known line dance teacher and is keen to start a class here in the new year. If interested please contact her at 754-9958.

So, see you at the dance class and for all the village "a happy and a fulfilling 2001".

eagle lake news

rhubarb patch

Ruth Still

754-2602

community news

wilberforce

Hilda Clark

448-2018

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Call (705) 457-5248.

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TRY CHURCH** seeking part-time,
ordained pastor, with some experi-
ence, a team leader/player. Eagle
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mation, call Ken at (705) 457-9163.

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erwear manufacturing operation
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**PRODUCTION MANAGER
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701 COMING EVENTS

**WEIGHT WATCHER NEW WIN-
NING POINTS PROGRAM.** Join
the Community Meeting in Good-
erham. Registration/Week 1 Meet-
ing: Tuesday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.,
Glamorgan Community Centre,
Gooderham. **SPECIAL OF-
FER...** with 20 or more mem-
bers...**PAY FOR 12 WEEKS AND
GET 2 WEEKS FREE!** Minimum
number of members required to join
for series to begin. All members re-
quired to pay for the full series on
January 9. Call 1-800-461-2246 for
more information.

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701 COMING EVENTS

WILBERFORCE HERITAGE GUILD

Annual Meeting
January 15, 2001 - 7:00 p.m.
Red Cross Outpost Historic
House in Wilberforce
All members and interested
parties, please join us.

CA

703 LOST & FOUND

\$500 REWARD for information to-
wards theft on Sunday, December
10, from Jim Reynolds shop on
Hwy. 121. Yellow wood splitter (Cub
Cadet), MIG welder (red and black),
2-1/2" drive air guns. Call 457-3647
or 457-1345.

CA

704 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Scarbroe every Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
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CA

708 OBITUARIES

HEINZE, ROBERT (Resident of
Haliburton Lake, Ontario): At Lak-
eridge Health, Oshawa, on Mon-
day, December 25, 2000, in his 59th
year. Beloved husband of Robin
Anthony. Loving son of Phyllis and
the late Harold Heinze. Cherished
father of Sheryl and her husband
Wayne Scott and Susan and her
husband Paul Griffiths, all of Ajax.
Fondly remembered by his grand-
son and good buddy Alan Griffiths.
Friends called at the HALIBURTON
COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME,
Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario
(705) 457-9209, on Friday after-
noon, December 29, 2000 from 2-
4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service was
held in the Chapel on Saturday
morning, December 30, 2000 at 11
o'clock. Private interment later
Resthaven Memorial Gardens,
Scarborough. As expressions of
sympathy, donations to the Hal-
iburton Highlands Health Services
Foundation would be appreciated
by the family.

CA

ROWELL, KATHLEEN (KAY):
Peacefully on Saturday morning,
December 23, 2000, in her 77th
year. Beloved wife of the late Her-
bert Rowell. Dear "Grandma" of
Rosemary Ellen. Mother of Michael
(Susan) of Eagle Lake. Also re-
membered by her grandchildren
Sheila, Melissa, Steven and great
grandson Glenn. Dear sister of
Mary and Colleen. Predeceased
by her daughter Mavoumeen and
sister Jane. Friends called at the
HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FU-
NERAL HOME, Hwy. #118, Hal-
iburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on
Sunday afternoon, December 24,
2000 from 12 (noon) until time of
Funeral Service in the Chapel at 1
o'clock. Then to Highland Memo-
ry Gardens, Toronto for interment
on Friday, December 29, 2000 at
11 o'clock. As expressions of sym-
pathy, donations to the Children's
Wish Foundation would be ap-
preciated by the family.

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708 OBITUARIES

IDA MAY HICKS

Entered into rest suddenly at her home in Lochlin on Thursday, December 21, 2000. May, in her 89th year, was the beloved wife of the late Orville Hicks. Dear mother of Ruth and her husband Murray Wruth. Dear grandmother of Dwain, Arlene and her husband Charlie MacLellan and their son Adam, Jim and his wife Dee and their son Jeremiah. Remembered by Bill and Joanne, Pat and Karen. Sister to Edna Esler, Orval Francis and his wife Bemice, Allan Francis and his wife Mae, Myrtle Walker, Ivan Francis and predeceased by Susan, Jack, Charlie, Ted and Carl. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Main St., Minden on Saturday, December 23, 2000 from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 2 p.m. Reception followed in the family centre at the Funeral Home. Spring interment at the Ingoldsbys Pioneer Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation or to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family. CA

MILTON HAZEN LOUCKS

Passed away suddenly at the Ross Memorial Hospital, Lindsay, on Thursday, December 21, 2000 in his 89th year.

Beloved husband of Edna May Pearl (Duncan). Loving father of Rendal and his wife Elaine of Minden, Rhonda and her husband John Francis of Gelet. Dear grandfather of Grant, Darlene and Steve, Glenda and her husband Stan, Valerie, Ted and his wife Ingun, Darnell and his wife Penny and great grandfather of Casey, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Brianna, Shawn, Jocelyn, Zachary, Victoria, Courtney, Candice, Dakotah, Hunter, Ashley, Shawn and Tory. Predeceased by his brother Lorne. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden K0M 2K0 on Sunday, December 24, 2000 from 1 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service in the Chapel at 2:30 p.m. Reception followed in the family centre. Spring interment at the Ingoldsbys Pioneer Cemetery. Memorial donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (H.H.H.S.F.) would be appreciated by the family. CA

WARRICK, DR. DENNIS ALFRED: In his 66th year. At home after a courageous battle with Lupus, on December 21, 2000, 3 p.m. Dennis went peacefully and beautifully to meet his Lord and Saviour hand in hand with his devoted and loving wife Madeline, surrounded by family and close friends. Beloved husband of Madeline (Juby) Forrester and the late Lois (Mollon). Dear father of Phil (Sylvaine), Janice Scanlon (Mark), and Paul (Rebecca). Step-father of Stephen and Donna Forrester. Brother of Shirley Petersen (David) and Christine Baker (John), and brother-in-law of Ann-Marie Juby. Also survived by his special granddaughters, Shannon, Alanna, Hillary and Emma (Scanlon) and Noelwen (Warrick), step-grandsons Christopher and Daniel Forrester, special nephew Michael Baker, nieces Andrea Chatterton (Scott) and Beth Baker. Friends called at the HENDREN FUNERAL HOME, Lakefield on Wednesday, December 27 from 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral service was held at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Queen and Regent Streets, Lakefield on Thurs., December 28 at 2 p.m. Interment Lakefield Cemetery. Rev. Peter Bishop officiating. Donations to the Memorial Fund at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Lupus Association or The Billy Graham Association would be appreciated by the family. CA

709 IN MEMORIAM

MUMFORD, DONNA - In loving memory. Although it has been three years since you last said goodbye; We still miss your phone calls, your laughter, your tears. Most of all we miss you as a dear sister and friend; You will always be in our hearts. Ever loved and not forgotten, **Jack, Marlene and families.**

SANDERSON - In loving memory of parents and grandparents; Joan, who passed away on December 30, 1997, and Wilbur who passed away on January 16, 1985. Your presence we miss, Your memory we treasure, Loving you always, Forgetting you never. Fondly remembered by her daughter **Judy (Wayne)** and grandchildren **Steve and Heather of Kincardine** and son **John (Linda) of Kitchener.**

710 LEGAL/PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: I, Tracy Hall, from the town of Huntsville, County of Muskoka, will no longer be responsible for any debts or any actions leading to a debt from my spouse, Gayle Hall, as of December 14, 2000.

712 CARDS OF THANKS

I WOULD LIKE to thank everyone who sent cards and flowers and made phone calls during my stay in hospital. A special thank you to my sister Sylvia and her church who held special prayers for me and The Eagle Lake Church and Mrs. Heard and my family who were so kind. A special thanks also to Carol who took care of me when I came home. **Glen McColl.**

THE FAMILY OF the late Helen Schell wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all family, friends and neighbours whose kindness, generosity, support, beautiful flowers and cards were greatly appreciated during Helen's illness and passing. Thank you all for being a friend in Helen's life. Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened! **Grenville, Dianne, Delinda, Debbie and families.**

WE WOULD LIKE to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their donations of gifts and/or money to our local "Toy Drive". Your support was very much appreciated and, due to your support, we were able to raise over six hundred dollars. We are more than sure that this would have put a few smiles on faces less fortunate at this time of year. So, thanks again, for all your help. We hope that you all had a safe and happy holiday. **Staff at Haliburton LCBO.**

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805 HEALTH & FITNESS

STEP IT FITNESS: Get fit in 2001. Noon hour fitness classes still available for Tues. and Thurs. at St. George's. All classes taught by certified instructors. \$60 for 11-week session. Note: all evening classes at 5:15 p.m. are full, however, we do have a waiting list. To register, please call 457-1052. CA

YOGA/MEDITATION
West Guilford
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10 week course - \$80
7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
For info call Pat at
(705) 489-4279

810 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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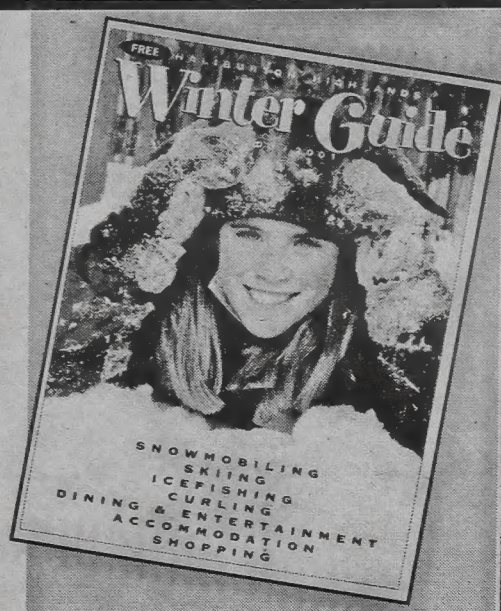
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